



# COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM PROGRAM

(Obey-Porter)



## *CSR Program Overview*

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# CSR Purpose

- To help schools undertake comprehensive reforms - grounded in scientifically based research and effective practices, including an emphasis on basic academics and parental involvement . . . *so that all children can meet challenging State academic content and achievement standards*
- To leverage systemic improvements in student achievement throughout the Title I program

# CSR Program Overview

- Established in FY 1998 Appropriations Act
- Authorized in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- \$308 million program in FY2003 (\$310 million in FY2002; \$260 million in FY2001; \$220 million in FY2000; \$145 million in FY 1998)
- About 75% of funds are limited to Title I-eligible schools
- Minimum \$50,000 per school each year for three years awarded through state competitions



# The Process of Comprehensive School Reform

- Identify needs through a rigorous needs assessment
- Investigate research-based solutions
- Gain support from everyone involved
- Develop a comprehensive program that integrates the eleven components
- Commit the time and resources necessary
- Plan to evaluate and strengthen the school's efforts regularly

# What's truly comprehensive?

- Addressing all students in the school
- Affecting all core subjects at all grade levels, with particular emphasis on reading and math
- Improving professional development for every teacher in the school, which includes meaningful, ongoing activity
- Establishing specific benchmarks and a credible plan for evaluation



# The Eleven Components

- **Employs proven methods and strategies that are grounded in scientifically based research**
- **Integrates a comprehensive design with aligned components**
- **Provides ongoing, high-quality professional development for teachers and staff**
- **Includes measurable goals and benchmarks for student achievement**
- **Is supported within the school by teachers, administrators and staff**
- **Provides support for teachers, administrators and staff**
- **Provides for meaningful parent and community involvement in planning, implementing and evaluating school improvement activities**
- **Uses high-quality external technical support and assistance from an external partner with experience and expertise in school-wide reform and improvement**
- **Annually evaluates strategies for the implementation of school reforms and for student results achievement**
- **Identifies resources to support and sustain the school's comprehensive reform effort**
- **Has been found to result in or has demonstrated strong evidence that it significantly improves the academic achievement of students**

# More About the Eleven Components

1. Employs proven methods and strategies that are grounded in scientifically based research
  - Uses proven methods and proven strategies for student learning, teaching and school management
  - Is based on scientifically based research and effective practices
  - Has been replicated successfully in schools



# Scientifically Based Research

- Research that involves the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs



# Characteristics of Scientifically Based Research

- **Employs systematic, empirical methods** that draw on observation and experiment
- **Involves rigorous data analyses** that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn
- **Relies on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and valid data** across evaluators and observers, across multiple measurements and observations, and across studies by the same or different investigators

## Characteristics of Scientifically Based Research (cont'd)

- **Be evaluated using experimental or quasi-experimental designs** in which individuals, entities, programs or activities are assigned to different conditions and with appropriate controls to evaluate the effects of the condition of interest, with a preference for random-assignment experiments, or other designs to the extent that those designs contain within-condition or across-condition controls
- **Ensures that experimental studies are presented in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication** or, at a minimum, offer the opportunity to build systematically on their findings
- **Has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal** or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective and scientific review



## More About the Eleven Components (cont'd)

### 2. Integrates a comprehensive design with aligned components

- Provides a comprehensive design for effective school functioning, including instruction, assessment, classroom management, professional development, parental involvement and school management
- Aligns curriculum, technology and professional development into a comprehensive school reform plan for schoolwide change
- Addresses identified school needs
- Enables all students - including children from low-income families, children with limited English proficiency and children with disabilities - to meet challenging state standards



## More About the Eleven Components (cont'd)

3. Provides ongoing, high-quality professional development for teachers and staff
4. Includes measurable goals and benchmarks for student achievement
5. Is supported within the school by teachers, administrators and staff
6. Provides support for teachers, administrators and staff
7. Provides for meaningful parent and community involvement in planning, implementing and evaluating school improvement activities

## More About the Eleven Components (cont'd)

8. Uses high-quality external technical support and assistance from an external partner with experience and expertise in school-wide reform and improvement
9. Annually evaluates strategies for the implementation of school reforms and for student results achievement
10. Identifies resources to support and sustain the school's comprehensive reform effort
11. Has been found to result in or has demonstrated strong evidence that it significantly improves the academic achievement of students



## Key Issues in Comprehensive School Reform

- Models, if used, should be integrated into the school's comprehensive program.
- Reform efforts must be connected, not layered on top of everything else.
- Faithful implementation is critical.
- Strong support from district is crucial.



## District Support for Comprehensive School Reform

- Build infrastructure to support reform
- Assist in reallocation of resources
- Help schools implement district curriculum aligned with State content standards
- Provide flexibility in professional development
- Help schools to evaluate programs

# How CSR Builds on Title I Schoolwide Programs

- Clear focus on the use of effective methods and strategies that are grounded in scientifically based research to strengthen core academic program
- Emphasizes ongoing professional development and full buy-in by school staff
- Requires ongoing assistance from an external partner
- Stresses evaluation as a tool for continuous improvement



# About CSR Schools

- Over 60% are Title I Schoolwide Programs.
- Over one-third identified for improvement under Title I.
- About two-thirds are elementary schools; the other third are middle and high schools.
- CSR schools are using both nationally available and locally developed models.
- Southwest Lab (SEDL) National Database of CSR schools:  
<http://www.sedl.org/csrd/awards.html>



# Reports from the Field – Emerging Challenges

- Effective evaluation and *using data to continuously improve reform programs*
- Finding *adequate time* for professional development
- *Strengthening alignment* between school reforms and state and district standards and assessments
- *New kind of leadership* required
- Integrating efforts & activities into a *coherent program*

# More Emerging Challenges

- *Meeting the needs of all students* including special education and English language learners
- Using *all* of the school's resources
- Developing *benchmarks for measuring progress* in implementing reform efforts and achievement
- *Involving parents meaningfully* in the development and implementation of school reform plans
- *Incorporating new teachers* into the reform effort